



26 MAY 1982

CATALOGUE NUMBER 6201.2

25 JANUARY 1980

THE LABOUR FORCE - VICTORIA,
OCTOBER 1979

INQUIRIES Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made by telephoning the Labour Subsection on Melbourne (03) 63 0181, extension 6134; for copies of this publication contact Information Services Section on extension 6325.

MAIN FEATURES

Total unemployment in Victoria in October 1979 was estimated at 103,800 persons or 5.9 per cent of the labour force. This was slightly lower than the estimate of 109,000 persons (6.2 per cent) in September 1979. However the estimate of the number of employed persons remained at virtually the same level as in September. The October 1979 estimate of unemployed persons was substantially higher than the estimate of 87,900 persons (5.1 per cent) in October 1978.

Unemployment continued to be unevenly spread throughout the community. The highest unemployment rate of 22.1 per cent was experienced by females aged 15-19 years who were not married, whereas the lowest rate was 1.9 per cent for married males.

The average duration of unemployment was 27.6 weeks.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

1. This monthly publication, first published for August 1978, contains Victorian labour force estimates derived from the population survey conducted throughout Australia each month by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Before February 1978 the survey was conducted on a quarterly basis in the months of February, May, August, and November each year.

Conduct of ABS population survey

2. The survey is based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings (about 6,500 houses, flats, etc.) and non-private dwellings (hotels, motels, etc.) and covers about one half of one per cent of the Victorian population. The information is obtained from the occupants of selected dwellings by carefully chosen and specially trained interviewers. The interviews

are generally conducted during the two weeks beginning on the Monday between the 6th and the 12th of each month. The information obtained relates to the week prior to the interview (i.e., the survey week).

Scope of survey

3. All persons aged fifteen years and over are included in the survey except the following: members of the permanent defence forces; certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from census and estimated populations; non-Australians on tour or holidaying in Australia; and members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia.

Definitions

4. The labour force category to which a person is assigned depends on his actual activity (i.e., whether working, looking for work, etc.) during the survey week. The definitions conform closely to the international standard definitions recommended by the International Labour Organisation.

Employed persons comprise all those aged 15 years and over who, during the survey week:

- (a) worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission, or payment in kind in a job or business, or on a farm (including employees, employers, and self-employed persons); or
- (b) worked for fifteen hours or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e., unpaid family helper); or
- (c) were employees who had a job but were not at work and were: on paid leave; on leave without pay for less than four weeks up to the end of the survey week; stood down without pay because of bad weather or plant breakdown at their place of employment for less than four weeks, up to the end of the survey week; on strike or locked out; on

workers' compensation and expected to be returning to their job; or receiving wages or salary while undertaking full-time study; or

(d) were employers or self-employed persons who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

Unemployed persons are those aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the survey week, and:

(a) had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the survey week and:

- (i) were available for work in the survey week, or would have been available except for temporary illness (i.e., lasting for less than four weeks to the end of the survey week); or
- (ii) were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the survey week and would have started in the survey week if the job had been available then; or

(b) were waiting to be called back to a full-time or part-time job from which they had been stood down without pay for less than four weeks up to the end of the survey week (including the whole of the survey week) for reasons other than bad weather or plant breakdown.

The labour force comprises all persons who, during the survey week, were employed or unemployed, as defined above.

Full-time workers are those who usually work 35 hours a week or more and others who, although usually part-time workers, worked 35 hours or more during the survey week. Part-time workers are those who usually work less than 35 hours a week and who did so during the survey week. When recording hours of work, fractions of an hour are disregarded.

Persons not in the labour force are those who, during the survey week, were not in the categories "employed" or "unemployed".

Reliability of estimates

5. Since the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings they, and the movements derived from them, are subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. One measure of the likely

difference is given by the standard error, which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of dwellings was included in the survey. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included in the survey, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors. Standard errors of survey estimates and month to month movements are shown on page 8.

Related publications

6. Users may also wish to refer to the following publications, available on request, which are issued by the ABS Canberra Office:

- 6201.0 **Unemployment (preliminary estimates)**
(monthly)
- 6202.0 **The labour force (preliminary)**
(monthly)
- 6203.0 **The labour force - Australia**
(monthly)
- 6204.0 **The labour force (annual)**
- 6212.0 **Civilian employees (preliminary)**
(monthly)
- 6213.0 **Civilian employees (monthly)**
- 6232.0 **Information paper: questionnaires used in the labour force survey**
(irregular)

All publications produced by the ABS are listed in the Catalogue of publications (1101.0) which is available free of charge from any ABS Office.

Symbols and other usages

- n.a. not available
- .. not applicable
- * subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes

Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

W. McLENNAN

Deputy Commonwealth Statistician

TABLE 1. VICTORIA - CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Month	Employed ('000)	Unemployed ('000)	Labour force ('000)	Not in labour force ('000)	Civilian population aged 15 years and over		
					Unemployment rate (a) (per cent)	Participation rate (b) (per cent)	
MALES							
1978 - September	1,035.7	46.6	1,082.3	297.0	1,379.2	4.3	78.5
October	1,037.2	45.5	1,082.7	297.3	1,380.1	4.2	78.5
November	1,033.5	44.8	1,078.3	303.1	1,381.4	4.2	78.1
December	1,048.3	58.9	1,107.2	277.1	1,384.3	5.3	80.0
1979 - January	1,032.2	55.9	1,088.1	298.0	1,386.1	5.1	78.5
February	1,041.1	56.4	1,097.4	291.0	1,388.4	5.1	79.0
March	1,048.1	48.8	1,096.9	296.9	1,393.8	4.4	78.7
April	1,049.4	47.6	1,097.0	298.6	1,395.6	4.3	78.6
May	1,050.5	46.6	1,097.0	299.8	1,396.8	4.2	78.5
June	1,050.5	46.4	1,096.9	300.6	1,397.5	4.2	78.5
July	1,048.7	45.0	1,093.7	305.5	1,399.1	4.1	78.2
August	1,044.0	49.5	1,093.4	307.2	1,400.6	4.5	78.1
September	1,058.6	51.1	1,109.7	294.2	1,403.9	4.6	79.0
October	1,055.7	49.5	1,105.2	300.4	1,405.6	4.5	78.6
MARRIED FEMALES							
1978 - September	378.2	19.9	398.0	524.4	922.4	5.0	43.2
October	374.8	19.1	393.9	521.6	915.4	4.8	43.0
November	383.7	16.5	400.3	521.5	921.8	4.1	43.4
December	385.9	14.2	400.2	525.8	926.0	3.6	43.2
1979 - January	366.0	18.0	384.0	540.1	924.1	4.7	41.6
February	382.5	24.1	406.6	517.2	923.8	5.9	44.0
March	387.2	23.4	410.7	516.1	926.8	5.7	44.3
April	383.1	25.3	408.4	514.4	922.8	6.2	44.3
May	382.5	17.5	400.0	524.0	923.9	4.4	43.3
June	379.0	19.3	398.3	525.0	923.3	4.8	43.1
July	379.6	20.7	400.3	524.1	924.3	5.2	43.3
August	380.0	20.7	400.7	517.6	918.3	5.2	43.6
September	385.3	28.2	413.5	509.5	923.0	6.8	44.8
October	386.8	26.0	412.8	510.0	922.7	6.3	44.7
OTHER FEMALES (c)							
1978 - September	210.1	22.0	232.1	273.5	505.6	9.5	45.9
October	208.0	23.3	231.3	282.1	513.4	10.1	45.1
November	209.7	21.4	231.1	277.5	508.6	9.3	45.4
December	215.5	39.8	255.3	252.4	507.8	15.6	50.3
1979 - January	217.2	31.2	248.4	263.2	511.5	12.5	48.6
February	220.9	29.4	250.3	263.9	514.2	11.7	48.7
March	223.0	26.3	249.3	265.3	514.6	10.6	48.4
April	223.7	27.3	251.0	269.8	520.8	10.9	48.2
May	219.9	26.9	246.8	274.5	521.2	10.9	47.3
June	217.2	29.1	246.3	276.2	522.5	11.8	47.1
July	216.0	26.3	242.3	280.8	523.2	10.9	46.3
August	215.0	25.1	240.2	290.7	530.9	10.5	45.2
September	216.2	29.7	245.9	282.6	528.5	12.1	46.5
October	217.4	28.4	245.8	285.1	530.9	11.5	46.3

TABLE 1. VICTORIA - CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS - contd.

Month	Employed ('000)	Unemployed ('000)	Labour force ('000)	Not in labour force ('000)	Civilian population aged		
					15 years and over ('000)	Unemployment rate (a) (per cent)	Participation rate (b) (per cent)
ALL FEMALES							
1978 - September	588.2	41.9	630.1	797.9	1,428.0	6.7	44.1
October	582.8	42.4	625.2	803.6	1,428.8	6.8	43.8
November	593.4	38.0	631.4	799.0	1,430.4	6.0	44.1
December	601.5	54.0	655.5	778.3	1,433.8	8.2	45.7
1979 - January	583.2	49.2	632.4	803.2	1,435.6	7.8	44.1
February	603.4	53.5	656.8	781.1	1,438.0	8.1	45.7
March	610.3	49.7	660.0	781.4	1,441.4	7.5	45.8
April	606.8	52.7	659.4	784.2	1,443.7	8.0	45.7
May	602.4	44.4	646.7	798.4	1,445.1	6.9	44.8
June	596.2	48.4	644.6	801.2	1,445.8	7.5	44.6
July	595.5	47.0	642.6	804.9	1,447.5	7.3	44.4
August	595.0	45.9	640.9	808.2	1,449.2	7.2	44.2
September	601.5	57.9	659.4	792.1	1,451.5	8.8	45.4
October	604.3	54.3	658.6	795.0	1,453.6	8.2	45.3
PERSONS							
1978 - September	1,623.9	88.5	1,712.4	1,094.8	2,807.2	5.2	61.0
October	1,620.0	87.9	1,707.9	1,100.9	2,808.9	5.1	60.8
November	1,627.0	82.7	1,709.7	1,102.1	2,811.8	4.8	60.8
December	1,649.8	113.0	1,762.7	1,055.3	2,818.1	6.4	62.6
1979 - January	1,615.5	105.1	1,720.5	1,101.2	2,821.7	6.1	61.0
February	1,644.4	109.9	1,754.3	1,072.1	2,826.4	6.3	62.1
March	1,658.4	98.5	1,756.9	1,078.3	2,835.2	5.6	62.0
April	1,656.2	100.2	1,756.4	1,082.8	2,839.2	5.7	61.9
May	1,652.8	90.9	1,743.8	1,098.2	2,841.9	5.2	61.4
June	1,646.7	94.7	1,741.5	1,101.8	2,843.2	5.4	61.2
July	1,644.2	92.0	1,736.3	1,110.4	2,846.6	5.3	61.0
August	1,639.0	95.3	1,734.4	1,115.4	2,849.8	5.5	60.9
September	1,660.1	109.0	1,769.1	1,086.2	2,855.3	6.2	62.0
October	1,660.0	103.8	1,763.8	1,095.4	2,859.2	5.9	61.7

(a) The number of unemployed in each group as a percentage of the labour force in the same group.

(b) The labour force in each group as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 years and over in the same group. (c) Never married, widowed, and divorced.

TABLE 2. VICTORIA - CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS AND MARITAL STATUS, OCTOBER 1979

Marital status	Employed ('000)	Unemployed ('000)	Civilian population				Participation rate (b) (per cent)
			Labour force ('000)	Not in labour force ('000)	15 years and over ('000)	Unemployment rate (a) (per cent)	
MELBOURNE STATISTICAL DIVISION							
Males -							
Married	528.3	11.1	539.4	106.6	645.9	2.1	83.5
Other (c)	226.6	23.6	250.2	108.1	358.3	9.4	69.8
Total	754.9	34.6	789.5	214.6	1,004.2	4.4	78.6
Females -							
Married	287.3	18.1	305.4	349.6	655.0	5.9	46.6
Other (c)	166.9	20.3	187.2	209.7	396.9	10.9	47.2
Total	454.2	38.5	492.7	559.3	1,051.9	7.8	46.8
Persons -							
Married	815.6	29.2	844.8	456.1	1,300.9	3.5	64.9
Other (c)	393.5	43.9	437.4	317.8	755.2	10.0	57.9
Total	1,209.1	73.1	1,282.2	773.9	2,056.1	5.7	62.4
REST OF VICTORIA							
Males -							
Married	222.5	*	225.8	48.6	274.4	*	82.3
Other (c)	78.3	11.5	89.8	37.2	127.0	12.8	70.7
Total	300.8	14.9	315.7	85.8	401.4	4.7	78.6
Females -							
Married	99.5	7.8	107.4	160.4	267.7	7.3	40.1
Other (c)	50.5	8.0	58.6	75.4	133.9	13.7	43.7
Total	150.1	15.8	165.9	235.7	401.7	9.5	41.3
Persons -							
Married	322.0	11.2	333.2	209.0	542.1	3.3	61.5
Other (c)	128.9	19.5	148.4	112.5	260.9	13.2	56.9
Total	450.9	30.7	481.6	321.5	803.1	6.4	60.0
TOTAL VICTORIA							
Males -							
Married	750.8	14.4	765.2	155.1	920.4	1.9	83.1
Other (c)	304.9	35.1	340.0	145.3	485.3	10.3	70.1
Total	1,055.7	49.5	1,105.2	300.4	1,405.6	4.5	78.6
Females -							
Married	386.8	26.0	412.8	510.0	922.7	6.3	44.7
Other (c)	217.4	28.4	245.8	285.1	530.9	11.5	46.3
Total	604.3	54.3	658.6	795.0	1,453.6	8.2	45.3
Persons -							
Married	1,137.6	40.4	1,178.0	665.1	1,843.1	3.4	63.9
Other (c)	522.4	63.4	585.8	430.3	1,016.1	10.8	57.6
Total	1,660.0	103.8	1,763.8	1,095.4	2,859.2	5.9	61.7

(a) The number of unemployed in each group as a percentage of the labour force in the same group.

(b) The labour force in each group as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 years and over in the same group. (c) Never married, widowed, and divorced.

TABLE 3. VICTORIA - CIVILIAN LABOUR FORCE BY AGE, OCTOBER 1979

Age group (years)	Number ('000)					Participation rate (per cent) (b)				
	Married females		Other females (a)			All females		Married females (a)		
	Males	females	All	Persons	Males	females	All	Persons		
MELBOURNE STATISTICAL DIVISION										
15 - 19	68.3	*	62.5	65.8	134.1	55.6	*	54.6	55.4	55.5
20 - 24	106.5	37.4	54.5	91.9	198.5	87.6	69.2	81.5	76.0	81.8
25 - 34	214.0	94.0	32.4	126.4	340.4	96.1	50.1	78.4	55.2	75.4
35 - 44	163.2	89.0	10.5	99.5	262.7	96.8	60.1	64.0	60.5	78.9
45 - 54	140.8	61.7	14.4	76.0	216.9	92.8	51.0	58.3	52.2	72.9
55 - 59	59.3	14.6	5.5	20.1	79.5	87.3	27.5	35.8	29.4	58.2
60 - 64	28.2	*	*	8.4	36.6	56.4	*	*	15.3	34.9
65 and over	9.1	*	*	4.5	13.6	9.2	*	*	3.0	5.8
Total	789.5	305.4	187.2	492.7	1,282.2	78.6	46.6	47.2	46.8	62.4
REST OF VICTORIA										
15 - 19	34.4	*	25.1	26.7	61.1	65.3	*	54.0	54.3	60.0
20 - 24	43.1	11.1	16.4	27.5	70.7	97.7	52.1	80.9	66.2	82.4
25 - 34	77.5	34.1	5.0	39.1	116.6	96.7	47.4	70.0	49.4	73.2
35 - 44	61.0	28.9	*	32.1	94.1	97.5	53.0	*	52.8	75.7
45 - 54	55.1	19.7	4.5	24.2	79.3	92.8	41.2	52.7	42.9	68.5
55 - 59	21.9	6.6	*	7.9	29.8	78.0	29.4	*	27.7	52.6
60 - 64	11.0	*	*	*	15.4	48.5	*	*	*	33.5
65 and over	10.7	*	*	*	14.6	21.0	*	*	*	12.8
Total	315.7	107.4	58.6	165.9	481.6	78.6	40.1	43.7	41.3	60.0
TOTAL VICTORIA										
15 - 19	102.7	4.9	87.6	92.5	195.2	58.5	70.2	54.5	55.1	56.9
20 - 24	149.7	48.5	70.9	119.5	269.1	90.3	64.4	81.4	73.5	82.0
25 - 34	291.5	128.1	37.4	165.6	457.1	96.2	49.4	77.2	53.7	74.8
35 - 44	225.2	117.9	13.7	131.6	356.8	97.0	58.2	60.6	58.5	78.0
45 - 54	195.9	81.3	18.9	100.3	296.2	92.8	48.2	56.8	49.6	71.7
55 - 59	81.2	21.2	6.9	28.0	109.2	84.6	28.1	31.7	28.9	56.6
60 - 64	39.2	7.9	4.9	12.8	52.0	53.9	15.1	19.0	16.3	34.5
65 and over	19.8	*	5.4	8.4	28.2	13.2	*	4.2	4.1	7.8
Total	1,105.2	412.8	245.8	658.6	1,763.8	78.6	44.7	46.3	45.3	61.7

(a) Never married, widowed, and divorced. (b) The labour force in each group as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 years and over in the same group.

TABLE 4. VICTORIA - EMPLOYED PERSONS BY AGE AND MARITAL STATUS, SEPTEMBER 1979
('000)

Marital status	Age group (years)								Total	
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65 and over		
MELBOURNE STATISTICAL DIVISION										
Males -										
Married	*	26.8	155.4	142.7	121.0	51.9	22.0	7.7	528.3	
Other (a)	58.8	71.9	50.9	15.1	17.7	6.2	4.9	*	226.6	
Total	59.5	98.7	206.3	157.8	138.7	58.1	26.9	8.9	754.9	
Females -										
Married	*	34.4	87.6	84.6	58.5	14.1	*	*	287.3	
Other (a)	50.1	49.7	30.2	9.9	14.2	5.6	*	*	166.9	
Total	52.7	84.1	117.8	94.5	72.7	19.7	8.4	4.5	454.2	
Persons -										
Married	*	61.2	242.9	227.3	179.5	66.0	26.4	8.8	815.6	
Other (a)	108.9	121.6	81.1	24.9	31.8	11.7	8.9	4.6	393.5	
Total	112.2	182.8	324.0	252.3	211.3	77.8	35.3	13.4	1,209.1	
REST OF VICTORIA										
Males -										
Married	*	13.4	65.2	56.5	48.7	19.5	9.6	9.4	222.5	
Other (a)	28.0	26.4	10.3	*	4.9	*	*	*	78.3	
Total	28.3	39.8	75.4	60.8	53.6	21.4	10.8	10.7	300.8	
Females -										
Married	*	9.6	30.5	26.8	19.5	6.4	*	*	99.5	
Other (a)	18.2	15.4	5.0	*	4.5	*	*	*	50.5	
Total	19.6	24.9	35.5	30.1	24.0	7.7	*	*	150.1	
Persons -										
Married	*	23.0	95.6	83.3	68.1	25.9	13.1	11.3	322.0	
Other (a)	46.2	41.8	15.3	7.6	9.4	*	*	*	128.9	
Total	47.9	64.8	110.9	90.9	77.6	29.1	15.2	14.6	450.9	
TOTAL VICTORIA										
Males -										
Married	*	40.2	220.5	199.2	169.7	71.4	31.6	17.1	750.8	
Other (a)	86.8	98.3	61.2	19.5	22.5	8.1	6.1	*	304.9	
Total	87.8	138.5	281.7	218.7	192.2	79.5	37.7	19.6	1,055.7	
Females -										
Married	*	43.9	118.0	111.4	78.0	20.5	7.9	*	386.8	
Other (a)	68.2	65.1	35.2	13.1	18.7	6.9	4.9	5.4	217.4	
Total	72.3	109.0	153.2	124.5	96.7	27.3	12.8	8.4	604.3	
Persons -										
Married	5.1	84.2	338.5	310.7	247.6	91.9	39.5	20.1	1,137.6	
Other (a)	155.1	163.4	96.4	32.5	41.2	15.0	10.9	7.9	522.4	
Total	160.1	247.6	434.9	343.2	288.9	106.8	50.4	28.0	1,660.0	

(a) Never married, widowed, and divorced.

TABLE 5. VICTORIA - ASPECTS OF UNEMPLOYMENT, OCTOBER 1979

Particulars	Number ('000)			Unemployment rate (a) (per cent)		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Total unemployed	49.5	54.3	103.8	4.5	8.2	5.9
Regional distribution -						
Melbourne Statistical Division	34.6	38.5	73.1	4.4	7.8	5.7
Rest of Victoria	14.9	15.8	30.7	4.7	9.5	6.4
Looking for -						
Full-time work	44.6	35.9	80.5	4.3	8.2	5.4
Part-time work	4.9	18.4	23.3	8.0	8.4	8.3
Marital status -						
Married	14.4	26.0	40.4	1.9	6.3	3.4
Not married (b) -	35.1	28.4	63.4	10.3	11.5	10.8
Aged 15-19 years	14.8	19.4	34.2	14.6	22.1	18.1
Aged 20 years and over	20.2	8.9	29.2	8.5	5.7	7.4
Age distribution (years) -						
15 - 19	14.8	20.2	35.0	14.5	21.8	18.0
20 - 24	11.1	10.4	21.5	7.4	8.7	8.0
25 - 34	9.8	12.3	22.2	3.4	7.5	4.8
35 and over	13.7	11.4	25.1	2.4	4.0	3.0
Birthplace -						
Born in Australia	35.6	41.1	76.7	4.7	8.7	6.2
Born outside Australia -	13.9	13.2	27.1	4.0	7.2	5.1
Arrived before 1971	9.4	10.0	19.4	3.3	6.8	4.5
" from 1971 to 1979	4.5	*	7.7	7.2	*	7.7
Duration of unemployment (weeks) -						
Under 2	4.8	4.7	9.5	..	..	..
2 and under 4	5.1	7.2	12.3	..	..	..
4 " " 8	5.7	8.6	14.2	..	..	..
8 " " 13	6.6	7.7	14.4	..	..	..
13 " " 26	7.3	7.3	14.6	..	..	..
26 " " 52	10.6	8.7	19.3	..	..	..
26 and over	20.0	18.8	38.8	..	..	..
52 and over	9.5	10.1	19.5	..	..	..

AVERAGE DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT (weeks)

All unemployed persons	27.9	27.4	27.6
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(a) The number of unemployed in each group as a percentage of the labour force in the same group.
 (b) Never married, widowed, and divorced.

VICTORIA - STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

('000)

Size of estimate	4.5	5.0	6.0	10.0	20.0	50.0	100.0	200.0	300.0	500.0	1,000.0	2,000.0
Standard error	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.9	2.7	3.5	4.4	5.0	5.8	7.0	8.4

VICTORIA - STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES OF MONTH TO MONTH MOVEMENTS

('000)

Size of larger estimates	4.5	5.0	6.0	10.0	20.0	50.0	100.0	200.0	300.0	500.0	1,000.0	2,000.0
Standard error	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.7	2.3	2.8	3.3	3.7	4.2	4.9	5.6